

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal wherein the blank has marginal edge portions, the apparatus comprising:

a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

means for producing a magnetic field disposed at least adjacent the cavity in-said the first die member for selectively restraining movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal;

a second die member mounted for relative reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in respect of said the first die member;

means for imparting selective relative reciprocal movement of between the first die member and said the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal within the cavity of the first die member; and

control means for selectively energizing said means for producing a varying the magnetic field to selectively restrain movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the forming of the article during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.

2. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said the means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets.

3. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 1-Claim 2 wherein said the cavity includes an open end.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 5 Claim 3 wherein said the electromagnets are disposed in spaced relation about the open end of said the cavity.

7. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 4 Claim 2 wherein said the control means includes a microprocessor for controlling the strength of the magnetic field produced by said the electromagnets.

8. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein said the control means includes a source of power coupled to said the electromagnets through said the microprocessor.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) Method for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal including the steps of:

providing a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

disposing a plurality of electromagnets spaced ~~relation~~ about the cavity in said the first die member for restraining movement of the blank of sheet metal;

positioning a blank of sheet metal having marginal edge portions over the cavity of said the first die member;

providing a second die member mounted for relative reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in respect of said the first die member

providing means for imparting selective relative reciprocal movement ~~of~~ between the first die member and said the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal;
and

selectively energizing varying the magnetic field of said the electromagnets to selectively restrain movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the forming of the article during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.